

“The Call”- Nayler Abror

(Stand Sunday 2023)

Introduction:

Caring for vulnerable children in the foster care system is not just a good thing to do. It is a calling of God. It is a vital part of living out the gospel of our Lord Jesus, because it reflects the Father's heart. It is not only a responsibility and duty, but also a great privilege to fulfill this calling. The call has gone out from the Lord and it is up to each of us to hear it and answer with a *trusting* 'yes' if we don't quite have a *confident* 'yes' yet. God called Moses to a work he didn't feel ready for, though God knew he was the right person for it. A lot of us can relate to Moses, so we're going to look at his calling and see how it can help us understand and navigate our own call to care for children from hard places.

Here's a summary of what the scripture tells us about the calling of Moses from Exodus chapters 2, 3 and 4. (if needed)

Moses was born at a time when the Israelites were facing abuse and oppression as Egyptian slaves. The Pharaoh had given a command that all male children be killed. The mother of Moses saw that Moses was a fine child, so he hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him anymore, she took him and put him on the river among some reeds. Pharaoh's daughter found the baby crying when she came to the river. She took pity on him and adopted him. Moses' sister Miriam stood close by and asked to find a nurse for the child. She was thinking of her own mother. Pharaoh's daughter agreed and paid the biological mother of Moses to take care of him until he was older. At the appropriate age, she sent him to his adopted home in Pharaoh's household.

As a man some years later, Moses saved a Hebrew man by killing an Egyptian that was abusing him. When he tried to break up a fight between two Hebrews the next day, the one in the wrong confronted Moses about the killing of the Egyptian. Moses became afraid and fled to Midian to escape Pharaoh's retaliation. At Midian, he saved the daughters of the priest of Midian from harassment by some shepherds and was invited to live with the priest. The priest gave one of his daughters to Moses for a wife, and they had a son Gershom, which means, "a stranger there."

One day while herding sheep, Moses saw a bush on fire, but was not being consumed. As he drew near to investigate the strange sight, God spoke to him from the burning bush. God told him he had appointed him to deliver the people of Israel from Egyptian oppression to bring them into the promised land. Moses protested and did not want to

accept the calling, but God promised to be with him and to help him. God even said he would bring Aaron, the brother of Moses, to help him as a spokesman. After God showed him some signs and provided him help through his brother, Moses took off to accomplish what God had promised.

What do we know about the call?

- I. The call is from God and is connected to his plan and purpose. [Exodus 3:6-9]
 - A. It was God who called Moses and gave him the assignment to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. It came out of God's passion and promise. It is important to keep in mind that God's call to care for vulnerable children comes out of his own heart and zealous commitment to care for, provide and protect the vulnerable.
 1. Psalm 68:5: "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.
 - B. When God called Moses, the need was very great and Moses was ready for the task. The people of Israel were suffering terribly under Egyptian abuse, and when they cried out to God, he heard them and called Moses to be their deliverer. The need is very great in the child welfare system. The cries of abused and neglected children always reach the ears of God, and he has called followers of Christ to be his hands and feet to bring them relief.
- II. The call is personal and practical [Exodus 3:2-8]
 - A. God's call to Moses required him to take specific, doable actions. God's call to care for the vulnerable children among us is no different. We may not know how to carry out the task, but we can be sure that it's not too vague or complicated for us to do.
 - B. God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and spoke to him alone. God validates our call many times through unique experiences that are personal to us. They may or may not be dramatic.

How does God prepare us for the call?

- I. He uses our God-given attributes and experiences. [Exodus 2:2-17]
 - A. God made Moses good looking, which caused his mother to hide him as an infant. Similarly, we have attributes and personality traits that God has equipped us with to be able to care for the vulnerable children he brings

into our lives. It could be your sense of humor, caring heart, generosity, curiosity or something else about you that you may not even like.

- B. Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter where he would have received top-notch Egyptian education and training, which prepared him for his future leadership of Israel and dealings with Pharaoh. There are specific life experiences, whether it's the home you grew up in, traumatic experiences, or mentors and examples in your life, that uniquely qualifies you to help care for kids from hard places.
- C. Moses' desire to save was "in-built" by God. It came out in different ways before he received the specific call. We see it when he delivered two Israelites from abuse in Egypt and also in his rescue of the priest of Midian's daughters from bully shepherds. Aspects of our call rear their heads unexpectedly in different seasons of our lives.

The "secret" of success for the call

- I. God's power [Exodus 4: 1-15]
 - A. God gave Moses everything he needed to be successful, including specific instruction, signs, and outside help.
 - B. God will equip us and empower us with his word and his leading so we can be successful, according to God's definition of success.
- II. The promise of God's presence [Exodus 3:12, Matthew 28:19-20]
 - A. God told Moses "but I will be with you..." as a promise that his abiding presence will enable Moses to carry out his calling successfully. Similarly, Jesus tells us he will be with us, "even to the end of the age," as we carry out the Great Commission, which certainly includes our ministry to the vulnerable children that he wants to come to him.

What are you called to do?

- I. Adopt [Exodus 2:10]
 - A. Like Pharaoh's daughter, you might providentially take pity on a child and adopt.
 - B. There are children open for adoption in PA. Your "Moses" may be one or more of them.
- II. Foster [Exodus 2:2-10]
 - A. Like Moses' mother "fostered" Moses, God may be calling you to open your home to foster some kids from hard places.
- III. Help and advocate [Exodus 2:7]

- A. You can help vulnerable children by supporting adoptive or foster parents in a Care Community and through advocacy, like Moses' siblings, sister Miriam.
- B. You can also help by meeting tangible needs of foster, adoptive and biological parents.

Conclusion:

There are (number) children currently in foster placement in (Your) County. All of them have experienced trauma, are in desperate need of loving families, and are heard, seen, known and loved deeply by God. God has called all his adopted children (followers of Jesus) to imitate him in caring for these precious children. These children have specific callings and purposes from God that will be shared and fulfilled by their own attributes and life experiences. Some of these experiences will come from the specific lives that intersect with theirs, whether it's in a foster, adoptive or supporting situation. Their destinies have been designed to be shaped by God's destiny and purpose for you. Just like Moses, God promises his presence to be with you as you listen to God's voice and his word and make the decision to imitate the Father of the fatherless in caring for vulnerable children. Moses obeyed the call. What will you do?